Message Text

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INFO OCT-01 STRE-00 ISO-00 AGRE-00 CEA-01 CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00 EB-08 FRB-03 H-01 INR-10 INT-05 L-03 LAB-04 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 CTME-00 AID-05 SS-15 ITC-01 TRSE-00 USIA-06 SP-02 SOE-02 OMB-01 DOE-11 ARA-10 IO-13 DOEE-00 SSO-00 /115 W

P 221722Z FEB 78 FM USMISSION GENEVA TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 6288 INFO AMEMBASSY BRASILIA

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USMTN

STR FOR ACTION

STR PASS CODEL

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: MTN, ETRD, BR

SUBJECT: MTN: PRELIMINARY MEETING WITH BRAZIL TO

- DISCUSS U.S. OFFER, BRAZILIAN PARTICIPATION,
- AND FUTURE BILATERAL MTN WORK

1. SUMMARY: IN A PRELIMINARY SESSION WITH THE BRAZILIAN DELEGATION TO INTRODUCE THE U.S. OFFER, U.S. MTN DEL EXPRESSED DISAPPOINTMENT AT LACK OF BRAZILIAN PARTICIPATION IN THE MTN REQUEST/OFFER EXERCISE, AS WELL AS OTHER MTN AREAS, AND HIGHLIGHTED SOME ASPECTS OF THE U.S. TARIFF OFFER OF INTEREST TO BRAZIL. BRAZILIAN DEL CONFIRMED THAT PRESIDENTIAL DECISION RECENTLY HAD BEEN TAKEN IN BRASILIA TO LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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"ENGAGE FULLY IN NEGOTIATIONS" AND ANTICIPATED INCREASED BRAZILIAN PARTICIPATION IN THE MTN WITH THE SUPPORT OF EXPERT TEAMS FROM BRASILIA. END SUMMARY.

2. AT THE REQUEST OF THE U.S. MTN DEL, U.S. BRAZIL TEAM (HARTZELL, GRAEF, ET AL) MET WITH BRAZILIAN DELEGATION (BARTHEL-ROSA, ET AL) FEBRUARY 17 AS A

FOLLOW-UP TO THE 23 JANUARY MINISTERIAL MEETING AND THE TABLING OF THE U.S. MTN OFFER. U.S. DEL EXPRESSED DISMAY THAT ELEMENTS FOR JOINING NEGOTIATIONS WITH BRAZIL WERE STILL MISSING. POINTING TO THE FACT THAT BRAZIL WAS THE ONLY MAJOR DEVELOPING COUNTRY WHICH HAD NOT YET SUBMITTED TARIFF REQUESTS TO THE U.S. AND THAT BRAZILIAN PARTICIPATION WAS MINIMAL IN SEVERAL OTHER MTN AREAS WHERE BRAZIL WAS AN IMPORTANT ACTOR. U.S. DEL NOTED THAT BRAZIL'S NTM REQUESTS HAD ONLY RECENTLY BEEN RECEIVED. IN ORDER TO ALLOW ADEQUATE TIME FOR CONSIDERATION OF REQUESTS, U.S. DEL IS ASKING THAT ALL REMAINING REQUESTS BE SUBMITTED BY MARCH 1. U.S. DEL EMPHASIZED THAT THE FINAL PHASE OF THE NEGOTIATIONS WERE UPON US AND THAT THERE WAS NO ROOM FOR FURTHER DELAY. IN ORDER TO MEET THE MTN TIMETABLE, NEGOTIATIONS ON OFFERS AND REQUESTS SHOULD BE FULLY ENGAGED DURING THE MONTH OF MARCH. A FULL DISCUSSION OF THE U.S. OFFER, IN U.S. DEL'S VIEW WOULD NOT BE FRUITFUL IN THE ABSENCE OF BRAZIL'S REOUESTS. U.S. DEL DID NOTE, HOWEVER, THAT BRAZIL IS THE FIRST SUPPLIER ON NINETEEN AGRICULTURAL ITEMS ON WHICH THE U.S. HAD MADE NO OFFER BECAUSE THE U.S. HAD RECEIVED EITHER NO REQUEST OR NO REQUEST FROM THE PRINCIPAL SUPPLIER, A FACT THAT OTHER DEVELOPING COUNTRIES HAD NOTICED. WE EXPLAINED THAT MAINTANENCE OR IMPROVE-MENT OF U.S. OFFER, WHICH IS QUITE GENEROUS WITH LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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RESPECT TO BRAZIL, DEPENDS UPON CONTRIBUTIONS RECEIVED FROM MTN PARTICIPANTS WHO BENEFIT.

3. BARTHEL-ROSA STATED THAT PRESIDENT GEISEL'S RECENT REVIEW OF BRAZIL'S POSITION ON THE MTN HAD RESULTED IN DECISION TO "ENGAGE FULLY IN NEGOTIATIONS", DESPITE ADVERSE POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC CONDITIONS WHICH HAD INTERVENED SINCE 1973 TOKYO MINISTERIAL AND CONTINUED EVEN NOW. THE FIRST MANIFESTATION OF PRESIDENTIAL DECISION WAS THE TABLING OF BRAZILIAN NTM REQUESTS ON FEBRUARY 14. PREPARATION OF TARIFF REQUESTS WAS NOW RECEIVING "HIGH, HIGH PRIORITY", BUT BARTHEL-ROSA DID NOT KNOW PRECISELY WHEN THEY WOULD BE READY. BRAZILIAN GENEVA DEL HAD ADVISED BRASILIA THAT NOT TABLING REQUESTS SOON COULD PREJUDICE THE POSSIBILITY FOR SUCCESSFUL NEGOTIATIONS. IN ADDITION, BARTHEL-ROSA RECOGNIZED THAT THE MERE TABLING OF BRAZILIAN REQUESTS WOULD NOT "GET US MUCH FURTHER DOWN THE ROAD" TOWARD NEGOTIATIONS WITHOUT SOME ATTENTION TO CONTRIBUTIONS BY BRAZIL, REMARKING THAT BRASILIA WAS AWARE THAT NEGOTIATIONS ARE NOT A ONE WAY STREET. REQUESTS FOR CONTRIBUTIONS WERE UNDER

"INTENSE STUDY" AT THIS TIME. AT U.S. DEL SUGGESTION, BRAZILIAN DEL AGREED TO MEET ONE WEEK AFTER THE U.S. HAD RECEIVED BRAZILIAN REQUESTS. THE PURPOSE OF THE MEETING WOULD BE TO DISCUSS THE U.S. OFFER AND CLARIFY, IF NECESSARY, BRAZIL'S REQUEST. BARTHEL-ROSA INDICATED THAT HE WAS EXPECTING AN EXPERT TEAM FROM BRASILIA IN MARCH WHICH WOULD BE CAPABLE OF ENGAGING IN PRODUCT-SPECIFIC DISCUSSIONS. THEREFORE, FOR PLANNING PURPOSES, A TENTATIVE MEETING DATE WAS SET FOR THE WEEK OF 6 MARCH.

4. IN RESPONSE TO THE U.S. OBSERVATION ON BRAZIL'S RELATIVE INACTIVITY IN SEVERAL NON-TARIFF MEASURE AND AGRICULTURAL AREAS, AND THE NEED FOR FULL BRAZILIAN LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PARTICIPATION TO CONCLUDE A "SUCESSFUL" MTN, BARTHEL-ROSA STATED THAT BRAZIL'S POSITION ON CUSTOMS VALUATION AND LICENSING WAS BEING REVIEWED. IN THE AREAS OF GOVERNMENT PROCUREMENT AND THE MEAT SUBGROUP HE EXPECTED EXPERTS FROM BRASILIA TO ATTEND THE SCHEDULED

MEETINGS IN MARCH TO ASSESS THE SITUATION. BILATERAL FOLLOW-UP DISCUSSIONS WOULD BE POSSIBLE AT THAT TIME.

5. COMMENT: U.S. DEL WAS ENCOURAGED BY POSITIVE NOTE TAKEN BY BRAZILIANS IN THIS DISCUSSION. THROUGHOUT DISCUSSION, HOWEVER, BARTHEL-ROSA CONTINUALLY POINTED TO THE FACT THAT THE GENEVA DELEGATION IS ALMOST TOTALLY DEPENDENT UPON SIGNALS FROM THE LARGE POLICY COORDINATING GROUP IN BRASILIA. THE WORK UNDERTAKEN IN THE NEXT MONTH WILL REVEAL WHETHER BARTEL-ROSA'S OPTIMISM AND SENSE OF URGENCY HAVE CAUGHT ON AMONG THE BRAZILIAN BUREACRACY. END COMMENT.

6. DRAFTED BY WALLAR. CULBERT

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